



Illinois' Radiation Response Volunteer Corps

What is the Radiation Response Volunteer Corp?

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is creating a pilot project to recruit, train and utilize radiation response volunteers to support the state's response to large-scale radiological accidents at nuclear power plants in the state. Radiation Response Volunteer Corps (RRVC) members will assist the state Radiological Assessment Field Teams (RAFT) in staffing and operation of community reception centers. Tasks may include administrative, logistical and communication support and radiological monitoring of people during a radiation-related emergency.

The Radiation Response Volunteer Corps pilot program will focus initially on the area around the Dresden Nuclear Power Station near Morris.



What knowledge or skills do volunteers need?

IEMA is looking for people who are interested in helping others during a radiological emergency. Some of the knowledge and skills needed include:

- Experience with radiation survey and decontamination procedures
- Knowledge and experience in reducing citizens' concern about health risk from radiation exposure
- Experience dealing with the psychological impact such an event may have on affected individuals
- The ability to communicate clearly through a variety of communications channels, including telephone and two-way radios.

Why does Illinois need to have radiological response capabilities?

Illinois has 11 operating nuclear power reactors at six facilities in the state. More than 80,000 people live within the 10-mile emergency planning zones surrounding each of these facilities. To protect people living and working near the nuclear power plants, IEMA maintains one of the most advanced nuclear safety programs in the country, including a state-of-the-art remote monitoring system in and around each plant; resident inspectors stationed at each plant site to conduct safety inspections; and a highly trained and experienced scientific and response staff.



How do I join the Radiation Response Volunteer Corps?

If you're interested in volunteering for the Radiation Response Volunteer Corps, visit the IEMA website at <http://www.iema.illinois.gov/iema/training/Course.asp?CourseID=1950> and complete the application. Applicants selected for the pilot program will be required to attend a training session. If you have questions about the program, contact Bill Conway, IEMA Bureau of Disaster Assistance and Preparedness, at 217-785-9886.